

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 251112Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1997
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINT MO
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN SPEAKS TO NATION ON PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: RABAT 2613

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: AS THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR MOROCCO'S JUNE 3 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS GOT UNDERWAY, KING HASSAN DELIVERED A FATHERLY LECTURE TO HIS COUNTRYMEN ON MAY 22. THE SPEECH APPEARED TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO SET GUIDELINES FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT ONCE CONSTITUTED. THE KING COUNSELED WISDOM ON THE VOTERS, RESPONSIBILITY ON THE CANDIDATES, AND RESTRAINT ON THE OPPOSITION. HE REITERATED HIS SEPT 26, 1976 (76 RABAT 5239) WARNING THAT THE MINORITY (I.E., THE OPPOSITION) MUST ACCEPT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY. HE ALSO PLACED THE THRONE ABOVE AND SUPERIOR TO THE "BALANCE OF POWERS" WHICH WOULD CHARACTERIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, STRESSING THAT THE THRONE WOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD AND GUIDE THE COUNTRY'S POLICIES. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE ADDED A NEW
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JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE BY NOTING ANGOLA'S HOSTILE POSITION ON THE SAHARA AND ITS ESPOUSAL OF MARXIST IDEOLOGY. WITHOUT NAMING ALGERIA, THE KING URGED PATIENCE AND "OPTIMISM" BECAUSE PRESENT LEADERS WOULD NOT LAST. END
INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. PARAPHRASED HIGHLIGHTS OF KING'S REMARKS FOLLOW: (BEGIN

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3. ADVICE TO VOTERS: UPCOMING ELECTIONS ARE ONE OF THE MOST DECISIVE STEPS IN NATION'S LIFE. CHOOSE WISELY ONLY ON THE BASIS OF IDEAS AND PROGRAMS WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

4. GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES, CAUTION TO PARTIES: THE ELECTIONS RESPOND PERFECTLY TO MY WISHES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT THE RESULT OF ANY PRESSURE OR CONSTRAINTS WHATSOEVER. WE WILL NOT RESIGN OURSELVES TO HEARING IDEAS WHICH PREJUDICE MOROCCO'S PRESTIGE AND WHICH ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH GREATER MORALITY OF ONE CANDIDATE OR PARTY OVER ANOTHER. ALL MOROCCANS ARE EQUAL IN LOVE FOR COUNTRY AND ITS SACRED INSTITUTIONS. THERE IS NO POINT IN PURSUING DEMAGOGY AND INCITATION BY THOSE WHO LAY CLAIM TO BEING PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS BUT WHO IN REALITY ONLY SEEK HIGH POSTS. MOROCCO HAS GREATLY CHANGED SINCE 1956, AND THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS ARE CAPABLE AND YOUNG AND DO NOT SHARE THE BITTERNESS OF PROTECTORATE DAYS. CANDIDATES MUST SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO VOTERS AND NOT ACT LIKE CIRCUS PERFORMERS PURVEYING BITTER IDEAS AND PETTY CRITICISMS WHICH CREATE A SPECTACLE FROM WHICH NO ONE PROFITS.

6. ROLE OF PARLIAMENT: THE PARLIAMENT WILL BE AN INSTITUTION WHERE THE MINORITY ACCEPTS THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY, IN A SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY, JUSTICE, AND EQUITY. IT WILL CONSTITUTE THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH IN DISTINCTION TO THE EXECUTIVE. WHAT SEPARATION OF POWERS EXISTS IT IS NOT AT THE LEVEL OF THE THRONE, FOR THE KING DIRECTS AND GUIDES THE POLICY OF HIS COUNTRY WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AID OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

7. THE EXAMINATION OF ISSUES DURING THE CAMPAIGN MUST NOT PREJUDICE PROGRAMS UNDERWAY, NOR DISTORT PRIORITIES. WE COULD RAISE WORKER'S SALARIES BY 25 OR 30 PCT, BUT THIS WOULD BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF SUCH PROGRAMS AS MILITARY PURCHASES, IRRIGATION, AND ROAD BUILDING. LET US FINISH CURRENT PROJECTS QUICKLY AND DISCUSS HOW TO GET ON WITH OTHERS. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, AVOIDING DEMAGOGY AND ABUSE OF LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD HURT MOROCCO'S REPUTATION.

8. FOREIGN AFFAIRS: ZAIRE: MOROCCO REMAINS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY. IT WILL AVOID ADVENTURES AND NOT TAKE PART IN DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRIENDS. HOWEVER, IF A DISPUTE HAS IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS WHICH AFFECT MOROCCO'S PRINCIPLES, MOROCCO WILL NOT BE NON-ALIGNED. SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH ZAIRE, WHICH FOUND ITSELF IN CONFLICT WITH A STATE WHICH HAD BEEN HOSTILE TO MOROCCO ON THE SAHARA AND WHICH SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE PRINCIPLES IN AFRICA INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF ISLAM AND ARABS.

9. ALGERIA: IF YOU RAISE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THE CAMPAIGN,
AVOID PASSION. HISTORICALLY, ALL ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN SUSCEPTIBLE
TO CHANGE EXCEPT GEOGRAPHY. BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE
BECAUSE CHANGE IS THE NATURE OF THINGS AND PEOPLE SOONER OR
LATER WILL HAVE THE RULERS THEY MERIT.
ANDERSON

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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